

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 3-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1 and 3 are amended. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 2 and claim 3 is amended to correct its dependency due to the cancellation of claim 2. Thus, no new matter is added.

**I. Personal Interview**

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Hiruy and Primary Examiner Martin during the interview held January 3, 2006, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

**II. Priority Documents**

Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgement of receipt of the priority document filed concurrently with this application on January 6, 2004.

**III. Allowable Subject Matter**

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-6 is appreciated, they being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of their base claim and any intervening claims. As the subject matter of allowable claim 2 is incorporated into independent claim 1, claims 1, 3-6 and 13 are in condition for allowance. Claims 7-12 are also in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

**IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that "neither the specification nor the claims clearly show how the power generated by the motor could be negative and further the sum could be zero. It is well-known in the art that the only condition that a motor could have a zero output is when the

motor is turned off. Thus, it is found by the Examiner that the teaching is not enabling to one having ordinary skill in the art."

As discussed during the personal interview, the rejected claims do not recite "a motor having a zero output," the relevance of the Examiner's statement is unclear. For example, claim 7 recites "a first step of calculating a first power of said 2Y motor and a second power of said electric motor; a second step of determining whether the sum of said calculated first power and said calculated second power is zero or not; and a third step of disconnecting, when said sum is equal to zero, a power supply from respective neutral points of two three-phase coils included in said 2Y motor." Thus, there is no recitation of a motor having a zero output.

Rather, the claims specifically recite a calculation of a first power and a second power. The specification gives detailed and complete examples of calculating such powers. For example, beginning at page 13, line 24, the specification describes the CPU 184 determining whether the sum of the motor power  $P_m$  and generator power  $P_g$ , namely  $P_m + P_g$ , is zero or not. The specification goes on to give a detailed explanation of calculating the powers of each of the 2Y motor and the electric motor corresponding to  $P_m$  and  $P_g$ . Furthermore, because there is a relation of supply and demand between the generator power  $P_g$  and the motor power  $P_m$ , the sum of  $P_g$  and  $P_m$  can be zero when the supply and the demand are balanced. It is also well-known in the art that the power of such motors may have a negative or zero value in some cases. For example, the motor generator MG2 may be driven in the regenerative mode to produce a negative value (see page 28, line 26 - page 29, line 8 of the specification). Thus, there is ample support throughout the specification to enable the subject matter of claims 7-12. Furthermore, as none of claims 7-12 are rejected over a prior art reference, claims 7-12 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

**V. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

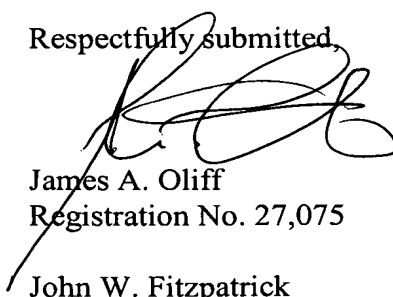
Claims 1 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,518,736 to Sasaki et al. (Sasaki) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,630,804 to Moriya. As claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 2, neither Sasaki nor Moriya, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

**VI. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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